

INFORMATION PAPER

ATJA

June 2006

SUBJECT: Commanders' Coins

- 1. Purpose.** To provide general information regarding the presentation of Commanders' Coins purchased with appropriated funds.
- 2. Discussion.** Commanders' Coins are presented to recognize exceptional service or achievement, and are not to be used as mementos. The use of appropriated funds to purchase coins is proper if the coins are given as part of a recognized awards program. The rules governing proper awards programs are discussed below.
- 3.** Commanders' Coins are authorized by 10 U.S.C. § 1125. This statute grants to the Secretary of Defense authority to "award medals, trophies, badges, and similar devices to members, units, or agencies of an armed force ... for excellence in accomplishments or competitions related to that Armed Force." DoD guidance is contained in DoD Memorandum from the Deputy Secretary General (March 22, 2004).
- 4.** DA implementation of 10 U.S.C. § 1125 is AR 600-8-22 (Military Awards) and AR 672-20 (Incentive Awards). Under Chapter 11, AR 600-8-22, "trophies and similar devices may be presented to military members, units, or Department of the Army agencies for excellence in accomplishments or competitions which clearly contribute to the increased effectiveness or efficiency of the military unit, that is, tank gunnery, weapons competition, and military aerial competition." Further DA guidance is contained in DA Memo 600-70 (11 February 2004). TRADOC guidance is contained in TRADOC Regulation 672-6, Military Coins (6 Feb 01).
- 5.** Based on these authorities, coins may generally be awarded to DA Military and Civilian personnel to:
 - a.** Recognize excellence in an Army competition or similar activity IAW AR 600-8-22 and AR 672-20.
 - b.** Recognize a unique accomplishment that furthers the efficiency and effectiveness of the Army's mission IAW AR 600-8-22 and AR 672-20.
- 6.** Military coins may not be given away as mementos and should not be presented merely for an individual's normal performance of regularly assigned duties. Coins purchased with appropriated funds may not be presented to contractor personnel.

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7. This information paper discusses the Commanders' Coins. It is simply an overview and designed to provide familiarization with this area. Each purchase/use of Commanders' Coins must be analyzed on its own individual facts and circumstances. This information paper should not be construed as authoritative. Questions regarding fiscal matters pertaining to the use of appropriated funds to purchase coins should be always addressed to the Directorate of Resource Management. Fiscal law issues should be addressed to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.